

From: [Jennifer Singeisen](#)
To: [BankMergerApplication](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE]Support of Sun Trust/BB&T Merger
Date: Friday, April 26, 2019 11:11:11 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

It gives me pleasure to support for the proposed merger of Sun Trust and BB&T. Both financial institutions support Step Up Savannah in promoting economic opportunity and financial security in Chatham County. While a quarter of Savannah's residents live in poverty, that percentage jumps to 50% and higher in some neighborhoods and has remained persistently high for over 30 years. Sun Trust and BB&T's commitment to this work is a credit to their dedication to economic mobility and financial security in our community. This has been demonstrated in a number of ways and specifically through Bank On Savannah and the Chatham Apprentice Program (CAP).

Bank On Savannah was established in 2009 through the joint effort of Step Up Savannah, the Banking Taskforce, the City of Savannah, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta to provide safe and affordable accounts to the banked or under-banked. Both Sun Trust and BB&T offer no and low-cost checking accounts for those who have never had accounts before, or who have had trouble managing an account in the past. This vital access to mainstream financial products helps build credit, longer-term savings, and promotes financial security which increases opportunity of economic mobility.

Sun Trust has also been a strong supporter of financial education in our workforce development program. The Chatham Apprentice Program takes a holistic approach to workforce development training through wrap around services including soft skill training, hard skill training, financial education, behavioral counseling, healthy eating, legal aid, access to public benefits and banking, as well as job placement. Sun Trust's consistent financial support has helped to increase the program's reach by over 30% in the past three years, and for the average graduate pay to increase from \$9.68 per hour to almost \$14.00 per hour.

I believe that by combining their efforts and resources, and continuing to place emphasis on economic mobility, our community can benefit by this proposed merger.

Kindest regards,

Jen Singeisen